

From: [Ariana Gomez](#)
To: ["Ari Simon"](#)
Subject: FW: LA Fashion District Event
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 9:41:00 AM

Good morning Ari!

We heard back from DOT last night and our contact there had some great news. She says the Council District is the only one with authority to waive fees (see her response below). Can you help us out?

Thank you!!

Ariana

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nat Gale <nat.gale@lacity.org>
Date: November 21, 2016 at 5:46:40 PM PST
To: Rena Leddy <rena@fashiondistrict.org>
Subject: Re: LA Fashion District Event

Hi Rena! Thanks for the note, and my apologies for the delay in responding. I also understand the challenges in navigating the permit issue - I myself personally threw a block party in my neighborhood not too long ago and had to deal with some similar issues! I have a little bit of background information for you and some thoughts on best steps forward.

LADOT costs

My understanding of the costs associated with LADOT are two-fold: 1) Traffic Operations - this is used to pay for traffic officers and/or engineers to help set up, manage, and breakdown any street closures; and 2) Sign posting - this is to pay for staff time to go out and post the "no parking" signs, which are legally required for enforcing the tow-away regulations. I hope this gives you a better understanding.

Path Forward

Unfortunately, our department doesn't have the authority to waive our costs. Only the Council Office can do that. It looks like they were able to do that for BSS. Could you ask them to do the same thing for LADOT? Your contact at CD14 would just have to make the request to LADOT management, and they would be able to assist from there.

If CD14 is uncomfortable doing that, the other approach they might take is in instructing BSS to issue the permit *prior* to your paying the fees. These fees are always "estimates" for services provided, and then after the event is over the departments are required to settle up actual costs. This might mean the final costs are less than the estimates, especially if you don't need as much traffic control as is currently being estimated. This might be more palatable to CD14 so as not to set a precedent of waiving fees for everyone.

Hopefully this is helpful and you are able to reach a resolution. The event sounds wonderful! I would love to attend.

Thanks,
Nat

On Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 3:48 PM, Rena Leddy <rena@fashiondistrict.org> wrote:

Hi Nat,

The LA Fashion District BID is planning the “Santee Winter Wonderland,” a holiday pop-up on 11th Street between Maple Avenue and Santee Street. The family-friendly event is free to the public, offering activities such as photos with Santa, crafts for kids, face painting, and holiday music. The BID had originally budgeted \$1,245 to cover the three street closure permits for all three days, based on previous special events permit applications.

However, on Thursday, November 17, 2016, we received an invoice from Bureau of Street Services (BSS) charging an additional \$995.68 for “IED-Investigator” and \$1,715 for “DOT Traffic,” totaling \$2,710.68 per week; more than we had originally budgeted for. The IED-Investigator fee would cover BSS enforcement of illegal vending rules, but it unclear what the fee covers for the Department of Transportation (DOT).

The BID reached out to BSS, LADOT, and Council District 14 to see if we could get these fees waived. Council District 14 was able to assist us in getting most of the \$995.68 fee waived. However they have not been able to confirm with DOT. Our office has also reached out to DOT and as of this time, is waiting for a response. Currently it would cost us an additional \$1,851 per day to put on the holiday event, totaling \$5,555.04 for the three days.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the BID has until the end of day tomorrow, November 22, 2016 to finalize the December 3rd event. We are worried we will not hear back from DOT in time. To that end, we are canceling the December 3rd event to allow us an extra week to work with DOT and try to get the fees waived (\$3702) in time for the December 10th and 17th events.

Is there anyone in your department that might be able to assist us? I know it’s not really your department but we are hoping to get a lead on who to speak with at DOT.

Thank you!
Rena

Rena Masten Leddy, Executive Director
LA Fashion District
110 E 9th Street Suite A 1175
Los Angeles, CA 90079

tel: [213-488-1153 x 712](tel:213-488-1153x712)
fax: [213-488-5159](tel:213-488-5159)
cell: [310-600-3247](tel:310-600-3247)
www.fashiondistrict.org



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